

Smith-Gilbert Gardens Master Plan Approved

Another piece of Kennesaw's storied history is being preserved for the enjoyment of current and future residents. In 2004, the City bought property that had been part of the original Roberts brothers' plantation from Richard Smith and Dr. Robert Gilbert, including a house listed on the National Register of Historic Places and extensive woodland gardens. Now named the Smith-Gilbert Gardens, the plan that was approved will develop this once private estate into a destination for visitors. "This has been a long time in the making," says Mayor Mark Mathews. "The development of Smith-Gilbert Gardens will enhance the reputation of Kennesaw as a city uniquely offering attractions of historic, educational and environmental significance."

The Garden currently features an extensive collection of woodland wildflowers and native flora, a rose garden, a perennial garden, a large vegetable garden, a re-circulating stream and waterfall, and a large outdoor sculpture collection.

The Master Plan will guide the renovation and development of the Gardens for the next ten years. The goal of the plan is to increase visitor diversity and numbers, build a strong membership base, and offer experiences that can help fund the Garden's operating expenses.

Components of Phase One of the plan include:

- providing parking, an orientation facility to collect admission and disseminate information, and restrooms
- renovating the Carriage House into a multi-purpose space for classes and special events
- establishing a Volunteer Center
- creating several new garden venues
- constructing a main garden path that is wheelchair-accessible

Funding will be generated through a capital campaign led by the Smith-Gilbert Foundation, as well as grants and donations from environmentally and educationally-minded organizations.



City Adopts Enhanced Curfew for Minors

In a proactive effort to keep children in school, not on the streets, the City Council of Kennesaw unanimously approved an ordinance at its March 16 meeting that enhances the curfew for minors to include a daytime curfew on school days. A similar ordinance, endorsed by the Cobb County Board of Education, was passed in Powder Springs in 2006.

The new ordinance will prevent anyone 17 years or younger from loitering or congregating in public places on school days between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Exceptions are made for minors on emergency errands or legitimate business such as going to or from school, participating in school activities or being home-schooled. Those who have graduated from high school or have written consent from parents or guardians are also exempt.

The state has a nighttime curfew for children 17 and under requiring them to be in by 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Cobb County school system has been stepping up efforts to discourage kids from playing hooky. "This additional daytime curfew was proactive on our part primarily to give officers legal grounds to deal with truancy," according to Police Chief Bill Westenberger. "Under the new ordinance, police can take truants to school and notify their parents. In addition, parents can be cited." The first offense results in a warning; subsequent offences include fines up to \$1,000.

For additional information, contact Lt. Craig Graydon in the Police Department at cgraydon@kennesaw-ga.gov.

Kennesaw News Briefs

Cemetery Honored on Decoration Day

The Kennesaw Cemetery Preservation Commission is hosting an event on Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. called Decoration Day, dedicated to beautifying Kennesaw's historic cemetery. "On this day, we take time each year to clean headstones and make our cemetery an inviting place to visit. It is our way of showing respect to those that have passed," according to Mary Helyn Hagin, Committee vice president and Decoration Day chair. "It is a day of friendship and fellowship as we honor our heritage."

The event will also feature free food and drinks compliments of the City of Kennesaw, as well as entertainment by the Coker Family Gospel Group and singer/soloist Gordon Shoaf. All are welcome to come and participate. Cleaning materials will be provided.



City Sponsors Electronics Recycling Day

Got old electronic equipment you want to get rid of but can't just throw away? Bring your junk computers, printers, VCRs, fax machines, phones, and small appliances to the Environmental Committee's 2nd Annual electronic recycling event on Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Adams Park soccer field parking lot. For a complete list of acceptable items as well as items that won't be accepted, go to the City's website or call Frank Cullins at 770-429-1308 for more information.

Farmers Market Coming Soon

Looking for fresh picked veggies and fruits grown right here in the area? Local farmers will be offering seasonal home grown produce at the downtown Farmers Market again this year. Baked goods, jellies and jams, and even plants will be available in addition to fruits and vegetables. Check the City website for information about the start date, location, and times.



Memo from Mayor Mathews



We are living in challenging times. But we have been fortunate to see projects we've been working on for a long time come to fruition these last few months. The approval of the Smith-Gilbert Gardens Master Plan will move us forward in the development of this beautiful attraction for both our residents and visitors. We will soon break ground on the pedestrian underpass that will help us bring development and growth to the downtown district and we're starting construction on an electronic marquee on Cobb Parkway this month.

We have also enjoyed tremendous success with several of our annual events. Touch-a-Truck had its highest attendance ever and the Egg Scramble and citywide picnic was a huge success. We expect the Big Shanty Festival to be our best ever, highlighted by the performance of the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

As always, the Council and city staff are working hard to make Kennesaw an exceptional place to live and work.

Mayor Calls for Special Election

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on April 6, Mayor Mathews called for a special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of Post 1 due to the retirement of Councilmember John Dowdy. The term of office for this Council seat expires December 31, 2011 and voting is at-large.

The qualifying period will be Monday and Tuesday, April 27 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Kennesaw City Hall. Qualifying fees are \$360. The special election will be held on June 16; the Cobb County Board of Elections and Registration will conduct the election on behalf of the City.

The deadline to register to vote is May 18.

Please note: The Cobb County Board of Elections and Registration has recommended changes to polling precincts KE1A and KE5A which were approved by the City Council at a public hearing held April 6:

Kennesaw KE1A - Move from Gateway Int'l Church of God, 1455 Ben King Road to Sardis Missionary Baptist Church, 2741 S. Main Street for all 2009 elections

Kennesaw KE5A - Move from Kennesaw Community Church, 3021 Rutledge Road to New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 2925 Mack Dobbs Road, as a permanent change

If you are unsure of your precinct, you can visit www.cobbelections.org/votingprecincts.asp
To check voter status and polling site location, go to sos.georgia.gov/elections/polllocator/PollLocator.aspx

Fun Things To Do

Movies in the Park

May is movie month in Kennesaw! Catch three outdoor, family-friendly flicks at Swift-Cantrell Park on a 50-foot inflatable screen. Best of all, admission is free. This season's offerings are:

- **May 2** - Kung Fu Panda (PG)
- **May 16** - Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG)
- **May 30** - Hotel for Dogs (PG)

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner or enjoy concessions at the park. Arrive early because activities begin at 6 pm and movies will begin at dark.

Museum Exhibit Continues

Enjoy the whimsical work of William Wardrop in the traveling exhibition "Man's Imagination and Machines" now showing at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History. Wardrop has been a professional modeler for 20 years, using mainly cardboard, glue and paint. His models capture man's imagination and creativity while conquering the oceans, skies and stars in this unique presentation of 3-D models of trains, planes, rockets, and submarines.

The exhibit will be on display at the Museum **through July 5**. For more information, visit www.southernmuseum.org or call (770) 427-2117, extension 3177.

Free Summer Concert Series



The 2009 Summer Concert Series kicks off downtown on Saturday, June 6th. Come out and enjoy this free outdoor concert showcasing the band Mighty McFly.

All shows start at 8 p.m. at The Historic Train Depot. For more information on the Kennesaw Summer Concert Series and other upcoming events in Kennesaw, please visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/summerconcertseries, or call 770-422-9714.

SAFETY FIRST

BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR RESIDENTS



Tips for Safe Grilling

Ah, spring. Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, steaks, chicken and burgers are grilling!

It's time to fire up the grill and enjoy outdoor barbequeing. However, before we start cooking, it's prudent to think safety first and take time for proper preparation.

Grilling on or near combustible areas can be a fire hazard. Not only will you put your family and visitors at risk, but also, especially in condos and apartment buildings, you can put your neighbors in danger. The most common grilling hazards are open flames and heat generated in the grill base that can be transferred to the wood of a porch, deck or siding, causing a fire. When grilling, follow these safety tips:

- Place the grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and over hanging branches
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup
- Use only proper starter fluid and store the can away from heat sources
- Check propane cylinder hoses for leaks before use
- Do not move hot grills
- Dispose of charcoal properly, keeping ash containers outside and away from combustible construction

Now all you need are the steaks! So what time is dinner?



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Events/City Services Calendar

For more information on these events, go to www.kennesaw-ga.gov/CurrentEvents.asp

Southern Museum

Kennesaw's Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History offers an array of popular educational programs and exhibits, including popular series for children such as the Mommy & Me Program Series, the Children's History Workshops, Kreative Kids and the Share a Story Program Series. The Museum also offers history lectures, living history, guided tours and traveling exhibits such as Man's Imagination and Machines exhibit currently showing.

A Smithsonian Institution affiliate, the Southern Museum features collections of rare Civil War weapons, uniforms, and other items; an exhibit about The Great Locomotive Chase, including a short movie; and a full-scale replica of a locomotive factory that helped rebuild the South after the war.

For a schedule of events and programs at the Southern Museum, please visit www.southernmuseum.org, or call 770-427-2117.

Smith-Gilbert Gardens

The Smith-Gilbert Gardens offer many gardening related programs conducted by experienced instructors and master gardeners. For a list and description, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov/sga, or call 770-424-8274 ext 3249. The Gardens are open every Friday through November 20th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is \$5. Guided tours (free with admission) are offered at 10 a.m. Tour spaces are limited and will be on a first-come basis. The Gardens are also open on selected Saturdays (May 16, June 20, July 11 and 18, and August 8, 15, and 29) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (no guided tours).

Adult Garden Programs - In partnership with the Master Gardeners of Cobb County, several programs will be offered. Programs are free with the cost of admission.

Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - "Perils and Pitfalls of Gardening"

Saturday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - "Hosta Highlights"

Children's Programs - An adult must attend with the children. Programs are free with the cost of admission. Bring a blanket and picnic and have lunch in the Gardens following the program.

Wednesday, May 6, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - "Grouchy Ladybug" (Ages 3-5)

Sat, June 13, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - "Treasure Hunt in the Garden" (Ages 7-11+)

Mayor and City Council Meetings

The Kennesaw Mayor and City Council meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Work Session meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the regular meeting. Public attendance is encouraged. For more information, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov or call 770-424-8274.

Community Events

April 18-19 (Sat/Sun) - Big Shanty Festival (co-sponsored with Kennesaw Business Association), downtown Kennesaw. Saturday - parade at 9:30 a.m., Festival 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., program at Kennesaw Mountain HS featuring Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon 7:30 p.m. with fireworks display immediately following. Sunday - Festival Noon - 5 p.m.

May 2 (Sat) - Decoration Day, Kennesaw Cemetery. Free food and entertainment. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 2 (Sat) - Movies in the Park, Swift-Cantrell Park. "Kung Fu Panda" (Rated PG). Movie starts at dark.

May 16 (Sat) - Movies in the Park, Swift-Cantrell Park. "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" (Rated PG). Movie starts at dark.

May 19 (Tue) - American Red Cross Blood Drive, Ben Robertson Community Center, 2-7 p.m.

May 30 (Sat) - Movies in the Park, Swift-Cantrell Park. "Hotel for Dogs" (Rated PG). Movie starts at dark.

June 6 (Sat) - Summer Concert Series, the Historic Train Depot. "Mighty McFly". 8 p.m.

June 20 (Sat) - Electronics Recycle Day, Adams Park parking lot. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sanitation/Trash Pickup Schedule Changes

The schedules will change for the holiday week of 5/25 thru 5/29 ONLY:

GARBAGE: Monday and Tuesday routes will shift forward one day.

RECYCLE (plastics, paper, etc.): No collection on Monday. Route will be collected on scheduled day of the following week.

BAGGED LAWN DEBRIS (grass clippings, leaves, etc.): No collection this week.

LARGE METAL ITEMS (appliances, water heaters, grills, etc.) - schedule subject to change

NO CHANGES - collection on Thursday and Friday

For more information, visit www.kennesaw-ga.gov, or call 770-421-8582.